

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01822 282138Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPG-02 FAA-00 EUR-12
/082 W

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P R 282120Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 878
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1822

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, BB, TD
SUBJECT: CUBANA CRASH BACK IN THE NEWS

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1412, BRIDGETOWN 1493

1. THE RELEASE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY WHICH INVESTIGATED THE CRASH OF THE CUBANA AIRLINER LAST OCTOBER HAS SET OFF A SPATE OF NEWS-PAPER REPORTS IN TRINIDAD ON THE CRASH AND HAS RESURRECTED CHARGES OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFFAIR. THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT ALSO PROVOKED A PUBLIC REJOINDER FROM THE GOTT TO THE REPORT'S CHARGES THAT T&T AUTHORITIES DENIED BARBADIAN INVESTIGATORS ACCESS TO CERTAIN EVIDENCE.

2. ON JUNE 22, THE "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN" CARRIED A BRIEF STORY ON THE RELEASE OF THE REPORT WHICH STATED THAT TRINIDAD HAD REFUSED TO ALLOW BARBADOS POLICE TO EXAMINE SOME ORIGINAL NOTES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS CONCERNING ASPECTS OF THE CASE IN TRINIDAD. THIS MOVED T&T ATTORNEY GENERAL SELWYN
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RICHARDSON, WHO SERVED AS CHAIRMAN ON THE CONFERENCE HELD IN TRINIDAD ON THE CRASH, TO "REFUTE" THE REPORT "ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT" AT A SITTING OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWO DAYS LATER. RICHARDSON STATED THAT THE BARBADOS POLICE WERE ALLOWED TO EXAMINE ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE INCIDENT WHICH WERE IN THE POSSESSION OF THE T&T POLICE. WHETHER THE GOTT

HAD OR WOULD TAKE ANY FURTHER STEPS DIRECTLY WITH BARBADOS
WAS NOT MADE CLEAR.

3. HAVING BEEN SCOOPED BY THE "GUARDIAN", THE TRINIDAD
"EXPRESS" BEGUN PRINTING EXCERPTS OF THE COMMISSION'S
REPORT ON JUNE 26 WITH LITTLE FANFARE. THE FRONT-PAGE
ARTICLE WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE THIRD INSTALLMENT ON JUNE 28,
HOWEVER, WAS HEADLINED "CRASH SUSPECT SAID HE WAS CIA MAN."
THE "EXPRESS" ARTICLE STATED THAT ONE OF THE TWO VENEZUE-
LAN SUSPECTS TOLD FORMER T&T DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DENNIS
RAMDWAR THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CIA AND THAT THE COM-
MISSION HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE TWO VENEZUELAN SUSPECTS
HAD, IN FACT, VISITED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BRIDGETOWN
ON THE DAY OF THE CRASH. THE "EXPRESS" ALSO REPORTED
THAT THE COMMISSION WAS CRITICAL OF THE LACK OF COOPERA-
TION BY THE GOTT.

4. SO FAR THE EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY INQUIRIES
CONCERNING THE REPORT. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US THAT
A REHASH OF THE OLD CIA CHARGES BY THE PRESS WILL CAUSE
MUCH EXCITEMENT HERE OR THAT ANYONE WILL BE ABLE TO
REKINDLE MUCH PRIVATE OR OFFICIAL INTEREST IN THE CUBANA
CRASH INVESTIGATION.

RICH

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Message Attributes

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